

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference CF017135W0 | FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below. | |
| International application No. PCT / JP 03/ 03617 | International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 25/03/2003 | (Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 28/03/2002 |
| Applicant CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA | | |

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
 - contained in the international application in written form.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

Colour image forming apparatus

5. With regard to the abstract,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

- as suggested by the applicant.
- because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1

None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP 03/03617

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

An image forming apparatus includes a plurality of image forming portions, each of which has a photosensitive member (1) and a developing device (3) for developing an electrostatic image on the photosensitive member (1), and an exposure unit disposed beneath the image forming portions for exposing the plurality of photosensitive members (1). The exposure unit has a frame member (8) that accommodates an optical member. The frame member (8) includes an upper frame portion (10) opposed to the image forming portions. The upper frame portion (10) has a plurality of recessed portions (9) corresponding to the image forming portions respectively.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/JP 03/03617

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G03G15/01

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G03G H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| Y | EP 0 734 154 A (TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO) 25 September 1996 (1996-09-25) column 5, line 21 - line 41 column 7, line 16 - line 40 column 10, line 56 -column 11, line 4; figure 2 --- | 1-4 |
| Y | US 6 271 869 B1 (HAGINOYA YOSHIAKI ET AL) 7 August 2001 (2001-08-07) column 7, line 47 - line 65; figure 4 --- | 1-4 |
| Y | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 05, 31 May 1996 (1996-05-31) -& JP 08 022174 A (BROTHER IND LTD), 23 January 1996 (1996-01-23) abstract; figure ----- | 1-4 |

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

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| Date of the actual completion of the international search | Date of mailing of the international search report |
| 17 June 2003 | 30/06/2003 |

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/JP 03/03617

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
|--|------------------|------------|---|--|--|
| EP 0734154 | A | 25-09-1996 | JP 8262352 A EP 0734154 A2 US 5818506 A | | 11-10-1996 25-09-1996 06-10-1998 |
| US 6271869 | B1 | 07-08-2001 | JP 3049606 B2 JP 2000180773 A JP 2000176759 A | | 05-06-2000 30-06-2000 27-06-2000 |
| JP 08022174 | A | 23-01-1996 | NONE | | |